

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 01170 281741Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 CA-01 VO-05 INR-10 L-03
H-01 NEAE-00 /051 W
-----064663 281745Z /42
R 281455Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7039

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1170

STADIS//////////

FOR NEA/ARN DRAPER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CASC, SY
SUBJ: SYRIAN JEWRY: ZEBAH FAMILY

REF: STATE 50060

1. ZABEHS RETURNED TO CONSULATE ON FEB. 23 AS ARRANGED.
SINCE WE DID NOT YET HAVE YOUR REPLY, DCM TOLD THEM
ONLY THAT WE WOULD BE AS HELPFUL AS WE COULD IN EXPEDITING
THEIR TRAVEL TO US AFTER THEY HAD RECEIVED SYRIAN PASSPORTS
AND EXIT VISAS. PASSPORT ISSUANCE, HOWEVER, WAS SYRIAN
GOVERNMENT MATTER AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO MAKE THEIR OWN
ARRANGEMENTS WITH APPROPRIATE SYRIAN AUTHORITIES.
2. MATTER MAY END HERE AS THEY SAW LITTLE PROSPECT EVEN OF
PERSUADING TOUTAH TO INTERVENE ON THEIR BEHALF LET ALONE OF
OBTAINING OFFICIAL SYRIAN APPROVAL TO ISSUE THEM PASSPORTS.
3. AS REGARDS REFTEL, IF SYRIANS DID APPROVE PASSPORTS FOR
ENTIRE ZEBAH FAMILY WE DOUBT THEY WOULD MUCH CARE WHETHER
ZEBZHS ENTERED US ON NIVS, IVS OR VIA PAROLE AS
PRIVATE BILL. THIS POINT, IN OUR VIEW, WOULD NOT
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DISADVANTAGE BRIDES' PROGRAM OR OTHER POTENTIAL
TRAVELERS. VISITORS VISAS WOULD OF COURSE BE
BEST FROM POINT OF VIEW OF AVOIDING QUESTIONING BY
AIRPORT OFFICIALS.

4. UNTIL THERE SOME FURTHER MOVEMENT ON SYRIAN SIDE,
I AGREE THAT ANY ACTION BY US ON ZEBAH CASE CAN BE

DEFERRED. IN UNLIKELY EVENT THEY GET PASSPORTS,
HOWEVER, WEWOULD WANT TO BE ABLE TO MOVE QUICKLY SO
THAT USG DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE THE DELAYING PARTY.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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